

IMPROVED SOURCING OF BILLS OF MATERIALS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A bill of materials (BOM) sourcing system includes one or more data storage
locations that store BOM sourcing criteria. The system also includes a sourcing
engine that receives a BOM that includes a plurality of part identifiers. The sourcing
engine identifies one or more part identifiers included in the BOM and searches
supplier data to obtain pricing information associated with the identified parts.
Furthermore, the sourcing engine receives sourcing criteria and determines which
supplier should be used to supply each identified part based on the pricing
information and the sourcing criteria. In addition, the system includes a transaction
10 execution module that receives from the sourcing engine a part identifier for each
identified part and the identity of the supplier to be used to supply each identified part.
The transaction execution module generates one or more transaction documents based
on this information and communicates the one or more transaction documents to the
associated suppliers.